

April 17, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I retired last month after serving over 26 years with the U.S. Border Patrol. I was appointed to the position of Chief Patrol Agent of the Yuma Border Patrol Sector in July of 2001 and I served in that capacity until being appointed to the position of Chief Patrol Agent of the Tucson Border Patrol Sector in January of 2005. These two sectors encompass the entire State of Arizona and the Tucson Sector is by far the largest, busiest Border Patrol operation in the Nation.

During my time in Arizona, I had the opportunity to work closely with the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, Paul Charlton. To say that Mr. Charlton had a positive impact upon border enforcement efforts in Arizona would be a gross understatement of his contributions. Mr. Charlton always stepped forward to support us in any way possible. During special operations such as the Department of Homeland Security's Arizona Border Control Initiative, he developed innovative ways to support our efforts and his office implemented protocols to maximize prosecutions in targeted corridors, thereby increasing the deterrence value of our operations.

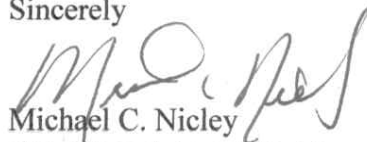
He always took a leadership role amongst the various federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating along the border and he clearly understood the important role prosecutions have on border security efforts. His office never shied away from difficult cases and his decisions related to prosecution were always based upon the merits of the case rather than political expediency or pressure.

Mr. Charlton's depth of experience regarding border enforcement operations made him an expert whose advice and counsel was routinely sought while my Command Staff and I addressed serious, difficult border security issues throughout Arizona. I can recall no instance when Mr. Charlton withheld discretionary support after I asked for assistance.

The prosecution thresholds established by his office were the function of staffing levels rather than arbitrary target numbers. The Department of Justice simply never provided adequate resources to properly carry the prosecution burden in Arizona.

Paul Charlton's departure was clearly a loss to the Arizona law enforcement community in general and the U.S. Border Patrol in particular. During his tenure, the State of Arizona and the people of the United States were extremely well served. It was an honor to work with such a dedicated, loyal public servant.

Sincerely



Michael C. Nicley
Chief Patrol Agent (Ret.)
U.S. Border Patrol